

For a Clean Flag---Life Work of a Modern Betsy Ross

BY JOHN ELPRETH WATKINS.
ARE YOU for a clean flag? Friday next, its 135th birthday, will you join the crusade for Old Glory's deliverance from commercial prostitution?

The members of fifty-six patriotic societies—upward of a million men, women and children—are already in line. This Flag Day will find their struggle gaining, but as yet unwon.

All of the great powers of Europe and four of our Latin-American neighbors have laws prohibiting the desecration of their national emblems. We have no Federal statute to that effect. Only a partial list of our Commonwealths have State laws on the subject. Uncle Sam shuts the gates of interstate commerce to articles having labels that offend honesty, but not to those having labels that offend patriotism—not, for example, to whisky bottles and beer bottles whose labels are American flags superimposed with the names of distillers and brewers.

It was a woman who mothered the Star Spangled Banner, and it was a woman who started, among patriotic societies, this crusade for that emblem's name from degradation. The latter, Mrs. Isabel Worrell Ball, of Washington, yesterday talked to me at length about her long fight for a clean flag.

A Modern Betsy Ross.

This modern Betsy Ross—as indefatigable a flagmaker as she is a flag defender—was born in an Illinois log cabin. She saw her father march off to the war of 1812, and she wore the blue from her youthful fingers helping her mother reduce all of the home-made linen to lint for soldiers' wounds. Later, as a cowboy girl on her father's ranch in Kansas, she deftly threw the lasso while galloping over the prairie to help round up the herd.

Having taught the first school in her county, and served as clerk to the Legislature, she went down into Arizona and New Mexico, to suffer many hairbreadth escapes while traveling among wild Indians as a special correspondent of the Albuquerque Journal and pioneer woman journalist of the Southwest. While living in a box car on the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad, while that time was building her independent dwelling was riddled with bullets from hostile redskins, and although two others inside were killed, she escaped unhurt. Thirty years ago she returned from the wilds and has been a working journalist ever since. For twenty-one years she has been her pen in the national capital, where now she is one of the editors of the National Tribune.

During her stirring career in the Southwest, Mrs. Ball made her first flag. It was one of the old "pine tree" designs and was a curiosity to the children of her desert neighborhood, principally because none of them had ever seen a tree or even a picture of one. Since then she has made a collection of seventy-two flags, no two alike, which shows the pedigree of our national emblem, beginning with the banner of Ferdinand and Isabella and that of Cabot. Of these fifty-four are the various precolonial and colonial flags planted upon our soil, and eighteen are special Federal flags that have been current since the Stars and Stripes were adopted, June 14, 1777.

Appointed "Patriotic Instructor." More than a quarter century ago the Woman's Relief Corps—to-day 155,000 strong—made the first organized effort to teach greater respect for the flag. Mrs. Ball was then a member and has since served as department president. She entered at once into this work with zeal. In many States the society obtained permission to enter the public schools and teach children the history of and respect for the flag. In a few years each department of the corps appointed a committee on "patriotic teaching" to systematize this work, and in 1905, on Mrs. Ball's motion, each department was ordered to appoint a "patriotic instructor." She was the first designated in the society.

Setting out upon her work in the national capital, she found to her surprise that only three public schools in the entire city—one of them for colored children—displayed the national banner. The flag upon each of these buildings had been supplied by penny subscriptions of the pupils. So she went before Congress forthwith and obtained an appropriation of \$200,000, whereupon flags were placed on all of the schoolhouses of the District of Columbia. And until this day the Federal Legislature makes an annual appropriation for the renewal of these banners. Mrs. Ball at the same time canvassed the merchants of the city and persuaded them to display flags on patriotic days. She also organized the first flag day ceremony held at the capital, and the inspector-general of the army presided. These various efforts were practically the inception of the flag crusade in the United States.

Lining Up the States.

The Woman's Relief Corps representatives went to work in the lobbies of the State Legislatures. The first to respond was that of the new State of South Dakota. In 1897, in the same year Minnesota and Pennsylvania fell into line, and the Sons of the American Revolution joined in the crusade. Then came Vermont. In 1895, which year was marked also by the organization of the American Flag Association, which has since worked zealously to further the crusade. Laws were passed the next year, 1899, by New York, California, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Illinois and Arizona, and directly followed Iowa, Oregon, Indiana, Washington, Colorado, Wisconsin, Michigan, Rhode Island, Maryland, Ohio, Utah, New Mexico, Missouri, Delaware, Nebraska and New Jersey.

The Porto Ricans eight years ago did for the flag of their adoption what the people of fifteen States have yet failed to do for the flag of their birth. They passed one of these laws forbidding the desecration of the Stars and

Stripes or its use for advertising purposes. Idaho, Wyoming, Oklahoma and Kansas have since profited by this example of our adopted brothers.

States Without Flag Laws.

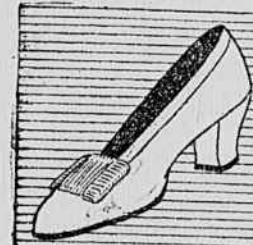
But the following States have as yet refused to do likewise: Virginia, West Virginia, the Carolinas, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. And, as said, Uncle Sam himself is still on this backward list.

Five years ago Mrs. Ball was placed at the head of her organization's part in this crusade for a clean national emblem. She was made chairman of the national committee on desecration

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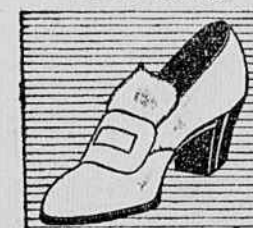
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And More!



Smart
Lingerie
Pumps
Monday

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\$5
Colonial
Pumps
Monday

3.98

Regular \$5 quality—tans, patent leather, demi-glaze and black satins—all sizes, yours too.

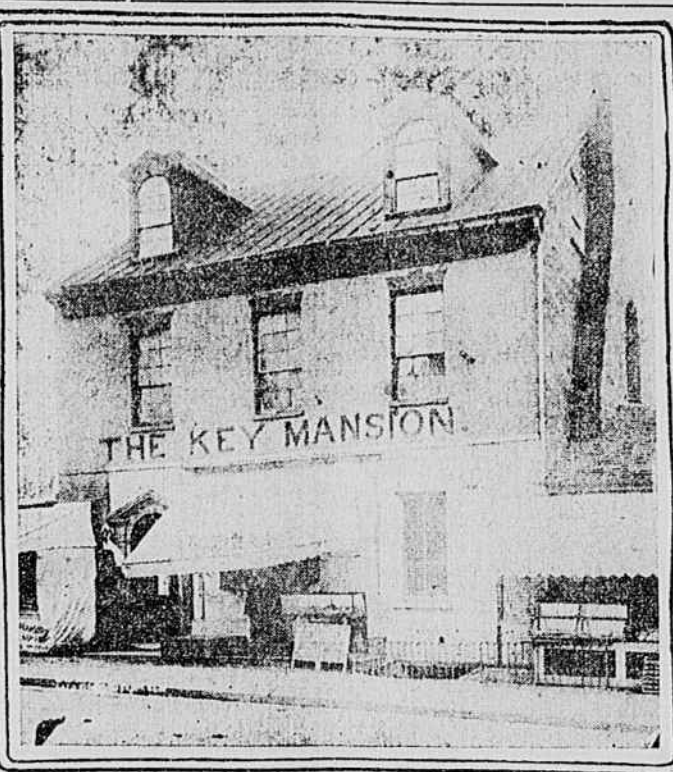
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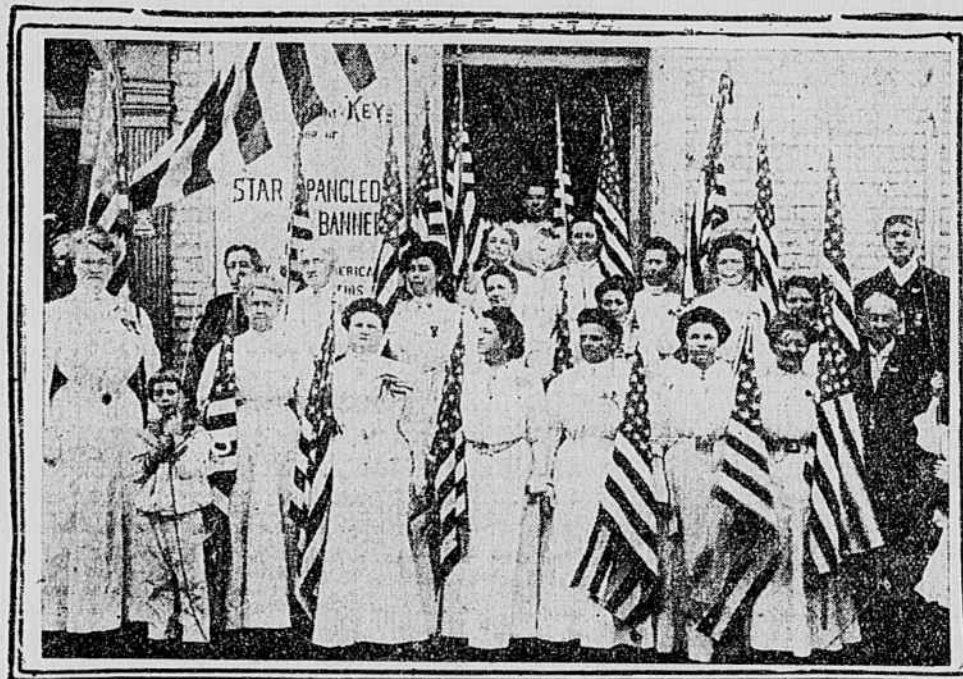
is gauged by cost per year—not altogether by price per pair. Sytle permanence of shapeliness is worth more—though it costs no more.

Dainty Shoes for the Brides Trousseau.
 Dancing Slippers in all Shades.
 Rompers for Misses and Children.
 Riding Boots, Tennis,
 Golf and Bathing Sandals



REPRESENTATIVE L. B. HANNA,
 Author of bill to protect flag.

KEY MANSION, WASHINGTON, D. C.,
 Wherein dwelt the author of "The Star Spangled Banner."



FLAG DAY EXERCISES AT KEY MANSION, MRS. BALL AT LEFT END.

of the flag, and in this capacity, backed by an Amazon army of 165,000 women, has lobbied before Congress for the desired law.

Another zealous worker for the same legislation is William Van Zandt Cox, one of Washington's leading bankers, the nephew of "Sunset" Cox—who who introduced the first flag bill in Congress. Mr. Cox is chairman of the flag committee of the Sons of the American Revolution. For years he has collected in albums hundreds of flagrant examples of flag desecration, hardly one of which is fit for reproduction in an article on the subject. And the Daughters of the Revolution have also their flag committee. As said, a total of fifty-six patriotic organizations are now at work hammer and tongs for State and Federal laws.

Some time ago she delivered one of these lectures in Washington's historic Key mansion, the old house on the north bank of the Potomac, wherein dwelt Francis Scott Key, author of "The Star Spangled Banner." Here the "L. W. B. Flag Association," named in her honor has for years held exercises on flag day, until the building passed recently into new hands.

Since the crusade for a clean flag commenced the Senate has passed a bill in two Congresses, wherein the House has refused to approve, and the House in one Congress has passed a bill not approved by the Senate. These bills have forbidden the placing upon articles exposed for sale or display any word, figure or design suggesting any flag or any coat of arms of the United States. Punishment is provided also for mutilation, defacement or insult to these emblems.

Two such bills are now before the House, one having been introduced by Representative L. B. Hanna, Republican, of North Dakota, and the other by Representative J. W. Byrnes, Democrat, of Tennessee, whose State as yet has failed to pass such legislation.

Those working for congressional protection of the flag maintain that inasmuch as the national emblem is the creation of Federal law, it should be protected from insult and commercial degradation by Federal law—that Congress has the constitutional right necessary for both the adoption and regulation of the flag's use, in other words, if Congress has the power to create, it must have the power to protect its creation.

Two steps forward have been made in this battle by Federal authority. Ten years ago the Commissioner of Patents ruled that neither the national flag nor the portrait or name of the President or any member of his family could be registered as a trade mark, and a year later he extended this protection to the shield or great seal of the United States. He held "that the introduction of the national colors in trade mark designs is against the public policy, cheapening the emblem in the eyes of the people, and taking from its patriotic significance and sanctity." Three years ago Congress backed up these rulings with a specific act. And recently the register of copyrights has refused official protection to illustra-

tions tending to cheapen the national emblems.

Flag Advertiser Beer.

"No man was ever great enough to have his name printed upon the flag," said President Grant. But this view is not coincided in by a number of commercial gentlemen, notably several brewers who arrogate to themselves this distinction denied to earthly mortals. A brewery firm which thus desecrated the flag was recently prosecuted by the Nebraska authorities for violation of the State law and appealed to the Federal Supreme Court, which held the law constitutional.

Recently in Detroit a liquor store displayed the national flag as an awning, and when the local Society of Sons of American Revolution threatened prosecution the proprietor craftily maintained that the emblem was not legally that of the nation, since it displayed one star less than authorized, since the admission of the last State. But it happened that the wise framers of the Michigan law forbade such use of any device which, apparent to an observer, was the national flag, regardless of its detail. And the awning was removed.

In New York recently an admonition concerning Old Glory for an advertisement was successfully proceeded against by the district attorney, and a

MRS. ISABEL WORRELL BALL,
 the modern Betsy Ross.

manufacturer of beds has similarly felt the hand of the law in New Jersey.

Some Flagrant Desecrations.

When General Ruggles, on becoming governor of the National Soldiers' Home in Washington, found all of the lavatory porcelain decorated with the American and British flags, he had all of these fixtures torn out. More recently General John M. Wilson has complained to Congress of similar degradations of the flag in connection with articles sold for unmentionable purposes. Mrs. Ball recently laid before Congress a list of "100 examples of indecent uses to which the flag is put," and among these are:

Flags printed on the backs of trolley transfers and containing on their white stripes the words "Stands for the best beer"; flag labels on beer and ale casks and liquor bottles; flag advertisements on thin paper wrappings for fruit, cheeses, hams, soaps, chewing gum, fireworks and cigars; printed letters on the stripes of the flag to advertise all manner of foods wet and dry, from sour mash to awnings; door mats decorated with the flag, so as to invite all comers to trample it and defile it with mud; political tickers using the Stars and Stripes as an emblem; prize fighters' breech cloths made of Old Glory, and its use to adorn representations of and impersonators of Uncle Sam, or the Goddess of Liberty, at shows or for advertising purposes.

Questions of Youth.

"I was in a moving picture show one night last week when a wartime scene was being enacted," said Mrs. Ball. "In a mad charge the color-bearer was shot and fell with his colors. Just behind me was a small boy, accompanied by his father. As the color sergeant went down the boy cried out, excitedly:

"Oh, catch it! Yo all oughtn't to let the flag touch the ground!"

"The boy's father pulled him back into his seat, and with a soft Southern drawl said: 'It's only play, son.' 'But, papa, they shouldn't let the flag touch the ground even in play,' the youngster replied, earnestly. Just then the troop charged again and picked up the flag, and the little lad frantically clasped his hands, as did a lot of others.

"A member of Congress has a little grandson about three years of age. The other night after having been put to bed, he called out: 'Mamma, if you will just let me have granddaddy's flag to lay my head on I won't be afraid of the dark.'"

"His mother put his head on the flag, and when she went in a little later she found him sound asleep with his folds caught under his rosy little chin.

"Now, when these children become old enough to pass along the streets and read advertisements of beer and whiskey with their eyes such reverence for the national emblem?

"How such desecrations act upon the youthful mind was impressed upon me some time ago in a tree kindergarten in New York. 'Children, what

is this?' I asked, holding up the national flag. None of them replied. 'Certainly you know what this is!' I insisted, and up went a little hand.

"That's on Pat Shaughnessy's saloon," answered the waif. 'It's painted on the window.'

"Well, what is it?' I repeated. "Oh, I don't know," the lad replied again. 'It belongs to Pat Shaughnessy.'"

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DURHAM

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

Durham, N. C., June 8.—Trinity commencement was on for four days, and with the various societies and their branches, there were banquets galore—for two evenings there were two of these functions each evening. They were affairs of the highest social order and afforded a perfect round of delight to the members and their young friends. The commencement wound up Wednesday evening with the college reception, which was one of the most brilliant ever witnessed at this institution. Hundreds of invitations had been issued.

Miss Maye Bowling entertained Friday afternoon, from 5 to 6:30, in honor of her guests, Miss Carrie May Bennett, of Cleveland, Tenn. Heart dice was the game played, and it was an afternoon filled with enjoyment. Dainty refreshments were served. The guests were Misses Mary Loomis Smith, Ruby Markham, Blanche Whitmore, of Raleigh, N. C., Misses Jeffreys, Lucile Gorman, Estelle Flowers, Mary Gorman, Irene Tapp, Mary Tapp, of Kingston; Carolyn Tuggle, of Martinsville; Virginia Wrenn, Emma McCullen, Maggie Hedlin and Lillian Bowling.

Mrs. Elizabeth Jones entertained the Round-About Club Friday afternoon, 4 to 5, at her home on East Main Street. This was a most attractive party. Refreshments were served in three courses.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Patten and Little son, J. M., Jr., have gone for a month's visit to friends and relatives in Lynchburg, Charlottesville and Richmond.

Allen Thomas has moved his family to Raleigh, where they will reside in the future. They left Thursday.

Miss Bertha Boughton of the City High School, domestic science department, and A. H. Bingham, of the mechanical department, have gone to Rock Hill, S. C., to spend the summer. They will spend their vacations with homefolks.

Misses Juanita Williams, Elsie Barker and Florence Haze are spending the week in the city. The guests of Misses Gypsie and Hope Barker.

Miss L. A. Brancraft, teacher of art in the city graded schools, left Wednesday morning for her home in New Jersey to spend her vacation. She was accompanied by her mother, Mrs. J. M. Brancraft, and sister, Miss S. J. Brancraft, who have been the guests of Mrs. A. H. Michael.

Miss Lillian White was hostess Monday morning to a number of her friends. The occasion was a party given in honor of Miss Edith Page, of Norfolk, who is visiting Miss White. The home was tastefully decorated with sweet peas and ferns. The merry party played hearts dice. Salad was served, followed by an ice course. The guests were Misses Fannie Markham, Evelyn Jones, Katie Lee Hundley, Carolyn Tuggle, Mary Sapp, of Kingston; Madames W. W. Peelle and F. S. Thomas.

Miss Susie Morgan, of Hartford, is in the city, the guest of Miss Mattie Toms, on East Main Street.

Miss Norma Britt has returned to Durham from quite a lengthy stay in Henderson.

Miss Carrie Crumpton, of Roxboro, is the guest of Miss Annie Riggsbee, on Burch Avenue.

T. J. Walker, of Richmond, is in the city, taking in Trinity commencement in the meantime.

Miss Lillie Walker is visiting friends in Goldsboro.

One of the pleasing incidents of Trinity commencement was the entertainment on Wednesday afternoon of the class of 1902 by Mrs. J. Crawford Riggs, who was a member of that class. Those present were W. A. Blyns, of Trinity; E. S. Tarborough, of Duke; J. M. Ormond, of Hillsboro; Fred C. Odell and wife, of Greensboro; W. H. Brown, of Gatesville; C. L. Hornaday and wife, of Durham; H. L. Dwyer, of Winston-Salem; Miss Lila Markham, Miss Elma McClellan and Katie L. Durham. The home was beautifully decorated for the occasion. Mrs. Fred C. Odell served punch. The feature of the afternoon was a Cuban party, and the web led to a souvenir for each guest. There were happy toasts, during the four-course luncheon which was served. It was the tenth anniversary of the class, and a large cake was cut, in which the guests found rings and thimbles and other prizes. This cake was ornamented before the cutting by ten lighted candles. They then drank the loving cup and sang "Auld Lang Syne." The class attended Trinity commencement and was given seats of honor.

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